

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Rikuro OBARA and Kenji FUKUNAGA

Application No.: New US Patent Application

Filed: July 2, 2001

Docket No.: 110007

For: SPINDLE MOTOR AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 3-4 as follows:

3. (Amended) A spindle motor according to claim 1, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft rotatable spindle motor in which said inner rings rotate together with said rotor.

4. (Amended) A spindle motor according to claim 1, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft fixed spindle motor in which said outer rings rotate together with said rotor.

Please add new claims 6-8 as follows:

--6. A spindle motor according to claim 2, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft rotatable spindle motor in which said inner rings rotate together with said rotor.--

--7. A spindle motor according to claim 2, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft fixed spindle motor in which said outer rings rotate together with said rotor.--

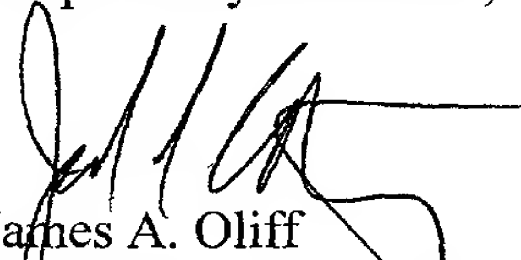
--8. A spindle motor according to claim 3, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft fixed spindle motor in which said outer rings rotate together with said rotor.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 3 and 4 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and claims 6-8 are added to compensate for subject matter deleted from multiple dependent claims 3 and 4. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attached: APPENDIX  
Date: July 2, 2001

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 6-8 are added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

3.     (Amended) A spindle motor according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft rotatable spindle motor in which said inner rings rotate together with said rotor.

4.     (Amended) A spindle motor according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said pair of open ball bearings is disposed in a shaft fixed spindle motor in which said outer rings rotate together with said rotor.